

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A method of displaying a web page, comprising:

receiving a multi-image file, wherein the multi-image file consists of a single data file comprising a plurality of independent images adapted for cooperative display; receiving a web page containing a markup language tag, the markup language tag comprising a code specifying which of the plurality of images in the multi-image file should be displayed; and displaying the web page.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising parsing the multi-image file for an information header, the information header containing an image name for each image in the multi-image file.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the information header further comprises a primary image indicator.

25. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the information header further comprises an image location in the multi-image file for each image.

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26. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising, in response to an event, displaying the web page with a secondary image.
27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the event comprises a mouse-over event.
28. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the plurality of independent images comprise a menu element.
29. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the markup language tag comprises an HTML code.
30. (New) A computer program product, comprising:
- (a) a program configured to perform a method for rendering images in a computer system, the method comprising:
 - receiving a multi-image file, the multi-image file consists of a single data file comprising a plurality of independent images including a primary image and at least one secondary image;
 - selecting an image for display from the multi-image file; and
 - displaying the selected image; and
 - (b) a tangible computer readable media bearing the program.
31. (New) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the program comprises a web browser.

32. (New) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the primary image and the at least one secondary image comprise complementary layers.

33. (New) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the primary image and the at least one secondary image comprise alternative versions of an image.

34. (New) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the at least one secondary image overlays the primary image.

35. (New) A method of generating a mouse-over feedback effect in a web page, comprising:

receiving a multi-image file, wherein the multi-image file consists of a single data file comprising a plurality of independent images adapted for cooperative display;

identifying a first markup language tag specifying the multi-image file, the first markup language tag comprising a first code identifying the multi-image file and one or more second codes specifying images in the multi-image file for display;

parsing the multi-image file to identify the one or more images specified by the second codes;

simultaneously displaying the one or more images specified by the second codes;

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detecting user interaction with at least one of the displayed images, and responsive to the detecting:

identifying a second markup language tag specifying the multi-image file, the second markup language tag comprising the first code and one or more third codes specifying images in the multi-image file;

parsing the multi-image file to identify one or more images specified by the third codes; and

simultaneously displaying one or more images specified by the third codes.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the images specified by the one or more second codes comprise complementary layers.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein a first of the images specified by the one or more second codes overlays a second of the images specified by the one or more second codes.

38. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the multi-image file further comprises an image descriptor for each of the plurality of images.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein parsing the multi-image file to identify the one or more images specified by the second codes comprises comparing the second codes to the image descriptors.

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40. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

receiving an image file from a web server;

detecting that the received image file is a conventional image file, wherein the conventional image file consists of a single file comprising a single image; and

responsive to the detecting, displaying the web page with the single image.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the detecting comprises parsing the received image file for image descriptors.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the multi-image file further comprises a primary image specification.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

failing to identify an image specified by the one or more second codes; and

responsive to the failure, displaying the primary image.